

WEATHER FORECAST:
Fair and Cold.
(Full Report on Page Two.)

The Washington Times

SUNDAY EVENING
EDITION

NUMBER 10,010.

WASHINGTON, SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 10, 1916.

PRICE ONE CENT.

FIGHT STARTED FOR MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR HERE

Department of Agriculture Has Approved the Plan for Capital Plant.

WOULD CUT MEAT PRICE

Present System Declared to Discourage Farmers From Raising Beef.

Legislation soon is to be introduced in Congress for a municipal abattoir in Washington. The plan already has received the approval of the Department of Agriculture.

It is contended that one reason why meat is so high in cities is that the present system of marketing and distributing meat is under the control of the great packers, and that farmers within a short distance of large cities are discouraged from raising and marketing their beef.

One Farmer's Experience.

The case is cited of a Maryland farmer, about fifty miles from Washington, who shipped a cow to the Capital, and received for it \$25 net, live weight.

Later this farmer butchered a smaller cow on his own farm, and disposed of the carcass to two merchants in a small town near by, who retailed it at profit. The farmer, by this process, received for his cow \$43.15 as follows: One hind and one fore quarter, 113.00; one hind quarter, 80 pounds, 12 cents, 9.60; one front quarter, retained at home, 53 pounds, at 10 cents, 5.30; liver and heart, kept at home, 20 pounds, 10 cents, 2.00; sold head and tongue, .50; sold neck and brisket, 10 pounds, 3 cents, .30; hide, net, 9.00.

Percentage of Output. Including the tongue, and not counting the weight of the hide, this cow dressed at 350 pounds. A cow will dress from 40 to 65 per cent of live weight.

Considering that this cow was a Jersey, and only averaged 80 per cent of dressed meat from live weight would be a fair allowance, making her live weight 750 pounds.

On the day this cow was disposed of the market price for cows, live weight in Washington, was from 2 to 3 cents, good ones being rated at about 4 cents a pound. Allowing that price for this cow, the gross return for her in Washington would have been \$28.50.

If she had been purchased by the local buyer who covers that section for the Baltimore and Washington markets, she would not have brought more than \$25.00.

The merchants who bought this carcass set their own price to the farmer, stating it was a fraction below what they paid the Washington distributing agencies of the big packers.

Must Deal With Buyer. Later this farmer and a neighbor who had twenty-five head of cattle to dispose of, including cows and steers, tried to sell direct to buyers in Washington, but they were met with the answer that they must deal with the buyer in their territory.

Municipal officials were asked to look into the possibility of the establishment of a municipal abattoir in Washington.

One District official who investigated the matter, reported that retail distributors in Washington had told him they could afford to buy from a municipal abattoir, but they would only on condition that this abattoir (Continued on Seventh Page.)

Taft and Bryan to Debate

Will Discuss Feasibility of Peace League Program.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—A joint debate between ex-President William Howard Taft and William Jennings Bryan on the question of how to insure the world against war has been announced. The debate will be carried on through the newspapers of the United States, South America, Australia, New Zealand, and certain European countries. The first article will appear in the New York Times.

Former President Taft will argue the affirmative of the following three propositions: "Is the platform of the League to Enforce Peace feasible?" "Does it furnish the most practical plan for securing permanent peace after the end of the present war?" "Should the United States become a signatory to the League to Enforce Peace?"

FLEET RIDES ROADS

Fifteen Warships and Four "Subs" to Be Reviewed Tomorrow.

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 10.—Fifteen grim warships of the Atlantic fleet, with four submarines are at Hampton Roads to participate in ceremonies attending the assembling of the Southern Commercial Congress tomorrow.

Included in the fleet were the new dreadnaughts Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and the Nevada, the most powerful fighting ships in the navy.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels will review the fleet and land parade tomorrow, in which more than 8,000 sailors and marines will participate.

Whipped about by a terrific gale, the United States submarine L-4, one of the four submarines booked to participate in the naval display limped into port minus her periscope and anchor.

FAVORITE HOTEL BURNED

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 10.—The famous hotel at Mammoth Cave, which for a century has housed famous visitors there, was a smoking ruin today, having been destroyed by fire that started from a defective fuse.

The register, bearing the names of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward, and the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, also was destroyed.

MAIL XMAS GIFTS TO GUARDSMEN NOW

Delay in Sending Presents May Cause Gloom in Some Border Tent.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Dec. 10.—Mothers, wives, sweethearts, and friends of the District militiamen who intend sending them Christmas gifts haven't much time to waste. The boxes or packages must be started from Washington at least a week before Christmas to reach the soldier boys in time. It would be wise to send the remembrances even sooner than that and make the Christmas, "Do not open until Christmas," according to Chaplain Arthur Lewis Smith, who handles all the District militiamen's mail.

Pack Parcels Securely.

There is always great congestion of Christmas mail, but this year, with almost 30,000 men at Camp Wilson, the District militiamen will find a situation never before encountered by them.

Boxes and parcels should be most securely packed to withstand the twenty-hour journey from Washington to San Antonio and the five-mile auto truck trip from the city to Camp Wilson. Allowance also must be made for the handling of parcels post matter only after all first-class mail is out of the way.

Many Never Delivered.

Hundreds of letters and scores of parcels intended for District militiamen have failed of delivery because of improper or insufficient address. The name of the soldier, his company and his regiment should be given, and the address should be John Smith, Company A, Third Regiment, N. G. D. C., San Antonio, Tex. A letter or box addressed to John Smith, Third Regiment, N. G. D. C., probably will never reach him, nor will one addressed to John Smith, N. G. D. C.

GERMAN CRUISER ROVES ATLANTIC

Evades Allied Blockade and Enters on Career as Commerce Raider.

LONDON, Dec. 10.—A German warship has succeeded in running the British cordon in the North Sea, according to the report of a ship caught by the British. The vessel was held up and examined in the Atlantic. The vessel is not a converted merchant ship, but a regular light cruiser.

The report from the log of this cruiser, which was captured by the British, states that the vessel was in local shipping circles, and has caused widespread speculation for the carrying of a large cargo.

The admiralty announced last night a report had been made that a disguised armed German vessel of war was sighted in the North Atlantic on December 4.

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CRIME WAVE GRIPS NATION

Hold-Ups Here Part of Widespread Trouble in Cities, Says Burlingame.

JUST BACK FROM TOUR

Police Believe Robberies Committed by Professionals Touring Big Towns.

The series of hold-ups and daring robberies which has kept the local police working day and night during the past two months, is the tail-end of a wave of crime that is sweeping all the large cities of the country, in the opinion of Central Office Detective Burlingame, who returned this morning from a tour of the East and Middle West.

"There is an unusual amount of 'kick-up' work and robbery going on all over the country this winter," said the detective, "but we're not getting anything like as much of it here as they are in other big cities."

Police Keep Busy. Detective Burlingame says in New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and other cities, the police are struggling with an unusual number of hold-ups by young white men.

Some of the other detectives who have been at headquarters for years, believe a number of the hold-up type of criminals are stopping in Washington on their way from other cities.

They point to the recent robbery of \$5,000 worth of furs from an F street furrier and the several recent safe-cracking jobs—both unusual in Washington—where the hold-up type of criminals are in part due to the presence of strangers in the city.

Began in November. The present wave of crime began here early in November, when Luther A. Acker was held up at Tenth and Massachusetts avenues northwest by two white men who robbed \$50.

This was followed by eight or ten similar jobs and a score of daring cases of housebreaking.

In Cleveland, Detective Burlingame said, the hold-up men were working with stolen automobiles. They take a place or to a man on a quiet street, get his money and speed off to a nearby town, where they abandon the car and disappear.

Major Fullman and Detective Burlingame, both of whom are of the belief that the increase in crime this winter might be due in part to the high cost of living.

Not Due to Labor Shortage. Detective Burlingame said, however, it could hardly be blamed on the fact that men who are unemployed for the crime are unable to get work. He said that in some of the cities he visited there is, on the contrary, a shortage of labor.

Inspector Clifford, chief of the local detective bureau, pointed out that crime of all kind always increases in winter, especially around Christmas.

Chinese Robbed. Laundryman Relieved of \$20 by "Blackened" White Man.

Hing Lee, Washington's latest robbery victim, who was held up in his laundry at 909 B street southeast, shortly after 10 o'clock last night and robbed of \$20 that was in his cash drawer, told Detective Wise, of the Fifth precinct, his assailant looked like a white man with his hands on his hips.

No trace of the man has been found. A woman saw him running east in B street from the laundry, and after a short chase, he disappeared.

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CLERKS TO GET GRADED RAISE

Increase on Percentage Basis Now Planned by Lawmakers in House.

ACTION DUE TOMORROW

Bill Carry Pay Boost to Go to Full Appropriations Committee.

From the viewpoint of the Government clerks of this city one of the most important meetings ever held by the House Committee on Appropriations will be staged tomorrow as the committee approaches the problem of the high cost of living as it is related to the salaries paid the employees of the United States Government.

This subcommittee, headed by Congressman Joseph Byrns of Tennessee, has completed the draft of the budget bill, which will relate to increased salaries for the Government clerks.

Carries Many Increases. The bill already carries a number of individual increases, applying to the higher-paid clerks and officials, but the subcommittee has passed on to the full committee the blanket raise for clerks receiving \$1,800 per year and less.

The bill is practically no doubt that the committee intends to increase salaries all along the line. Every department head and official and every representative of the Government, appearing before the subcommittee, has not been remiss in describing the necessity for action.

On Percentage Basis. It is believed now that the full committee will consider increases on the percentage basis; that is, the percentage of increase will be graded according to the salary now received by the employee. This percentage would be applied to the salary of each clerk.

The block in effect today comes from the fact that the House has not yet passed the bill. The House has not yet passed the bill.

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WIDE VARIATION FOUND IN POTOMAC PLANT VALUATIONS

Commission Experts Put Electric Company's Assets at \$8,127,000, as Against \$23,235,000, Corporation's Figure.

235,000, Corporation's Figure.

The hearings covering the valuation of the property of the Potomac Electric Power Company and the proper electric rates for Washington, have been up to date of a dry statistical character. The facts developed have, however, been most important and are summarized in the article which follows.

With the beginning of the cross-examination of important witnesses tomorrow, The Times will print daily full reports of the hearings.

The question of the value of a thing has long been a matter of argument. Is it what the thing costs? Is it what it would sell for? Is it what it could be reproduced for? A wide variation of conclusions is sometimes reached from the same facts.

No variation more astonishing has ever reached, however, than has been the case in the valuations of the property of the Potomac Electric Power Company over which problem the Commission have been at work for months.

Difference of Millions. The experts of the commission have reported their valuation as \$8,127,000. The representatives of the company maintain that the investment value of the property is \$23,235,000.

Such an amazing difference is a matter worthy of analysis and what follows is a short cut through days of testimony to the resulting statement of two estimates 300 per cent at variance.

If the commission should accept the statement of the company's experts it would be forced to agree that the public of the District may rightfully be called upon to pay double the present rate for electric current. The question of the accuracy and propriety of the company's valuation is therefore one involving the serious study and consideration of every citizen of the District.

What Commission Men Did. The Commission's experts, in their testimony before the Commission, have proceeded on the basis of the assumption that what Congress wanted the Public Utilities Commission to do was to find out in the most practical way just what the Potomac Electric Power Company's property is actually worth, and then proceed to fix electric rates at such a level as would yield the owners of the property a fair and reasonable return on their investment.

Upon this assumption the experts (Continued on Page Sixteen.)

URGES IRON HAND IN GREEK AFFAIRS

British Press Insists on Repressive Measures—Italy Seeks Compromise.

LONDON, Dec. 10.—No more delay in dealing with Greece is the cry of the press here.

The report from Athens that Constantine will join with Germany if the allies break off negotiations with him has stirred sentiment still further against any further palliation of his methods.

It is said by well established that the British in-law of the Kaiser deliberately fomented the attacks on Admiral Fournet's men.

Constantine is now realized, is playing for time, and undoubtedly plans to wait until Mackensen can move in the north when he will hurl the Greek troops against the rear of the allied forces. The Greek king is not expected to accede to the demands for the release of 1,000 Venizelist adherents now held prisoners.

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COUNTRY-WIDE BOYCOTT, PLEA OF U. S. PROBER

Special Assistant Attorney General Anderson Says People Must Act.

POINTS TO CHEAP FOODS

Declares Must Resort to Ban on All Products With Inflated Cost.

A nation-wide appeal to the people of the United States for a boycott against speculators, as the most effective means of puncturing the present inflation of food prices, was made today by George W. Prober, Special Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Federal food probe.

"Low priced foods," he said, "which are beyond the influence of food speculators, are to be had in greatest abundance. The people must resort to these."

It is vastly more important that they do this, Anderson said with solemnity, than that we, as a result of our investigations, obtain convictions against certain speculators.

One week of a concerted food boycott against inflated food would knock the very bottom out of prices, is the consensus of official opinion here.

Incident with the launching of a nation-wide grand jury inquiry into food speculation, President Wilson will give personal attention this week to the question of curbing soaring prices of food stuffs.

Legislation to force the release of cold storage holdings is one of the remedies the President is understood to have under consideration.

Conference With Anderson. President Wilson tomorrow will outline his ideas of the course of action he deems advisable in view of reports now before him to Special Assistant Attorney General Anderson, in charge of the food investigation.

After his conference with the President, Mr. Anderson will leave for the West to investigate food and dairy investigations this week at Detroit and Chicago, and probably Kansas City, Minneapolis, Cincinnati and Cleveland.

New York Inquiry. Frank M. Swacker, who prosecuted the New Haven case, will take charge of the New York grand jury investigation, also scheduled to begin this week.

The cold storage phase of the food problem was called sharply to the attention of the President when the Department of Agriculture submitted a report showing tremendous increases of frozen stocks and cured meats in packing houses and cold storage warehouses on